

**BOARD BILL NO. 204 CS INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN ANTONIO
FRENCH, PRESIDENT LEWIS REED, ALDERMAN TERRY KENNEDY,
ALDERWOMAN SHARON TYUS, ALDERWOMAN CHRISTINE INGRASSIA,
ALDERMAN JOSEPH VACCARO**

An ordinance requiring the recording of all public meetings of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, including committee meetings; the Board of Estimate & Apportionment; the Board of Public Service; and the Preservation Board; making such recordings publicly available; containing definitions; distribution of recordings; the creation of a YouTube Channel; exceptions; and an effective date.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE. Title.

This ordinance shall be known as The Transparency in Government Law.

SECTION TWO. Findings.

It is hereby found, determined and declared by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that publicly available video recordings, **audio recordings**, or transcripts of public meetings promotes transparency and public trust in government. It also finds that publicly available video recordings, **audio recordings**, or transcripts promote civic engagement, especially amongst parents, workers, and the disabled who cannot physically attend public meetings. It also finds that video recordings, **audio recordings**, or transcripts may aid and improve judicial interpretation of legislation, **and provide lawmakers, future and present, with valuable knowledge and history to make informed decisions on behalf of the people of St. Louis.**

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1 **SECTION THREE. Definitions**

2 A. Public Meeting: any meeting at which public business is discussed, decided, or
3 public policy formulated, whether conducted in person or by means of electronic
4 communications equipment. “Public meeting” does not include informal gatherings of
5 officials for ministerial or social purposes where there is no intent to avoid the
6 requirements of this bill.

7 B. Closed Meeting: the portion of a public meeting that is not open to the public as
8 provided for by R.S. Mo. § 610.021.

9 C. Transcript: a written reproduction of the complete audio of a public meeting.

10 D. Video Recording: the electronic capture and storage of video and audio of a
11 public meeting in a manner sufficient to enable review.

12 E. **Audio Recordings: the electronic capture and storage of audio of a public**
13 **meeting in a manner sufficient to enable review.**

14 F. Website: the Internet location where the ~~St. Louis Board of Aldermen~~ **City of St.**
15 **Louis** posts official information for public access.

16 **SECTION FOUR. Recording public meetings**

17 Any public meeting of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, the Board of Estimate &
18 Apportionment, the Board of Public Service, and the Preservation Board shall be
19 recorded by video, **audio**, or transcript **in its entirety**. A video recording shall include
20 audio from the proceeding.

21 **SECTION FIVE. Distribution of recording to the public**

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Any recording created under Section Three herein shall be made available free of charge on the official website of the respective body. Recordings shall be ~~permanently~~ archived on the website and shall ~~not be removed~~ **be accessible by the public for a minimum of ten (10) years after the date of the meeting.**

SECTION SIX. Official YouTube Channel of the City of St. Louis

Any **video** recording created under Section Three herein shall also be made available on an official City of St. Louis channel on the video sharing website, YouTube (www.YouTube.com). This channel shall be maintained by the Communications Division. Videos shall be posted within three business days of the public meeting. All videos shall be viewable to the public with embedding capabilities activated so that citizens and news organizations can repost the videos on their own websites.

SECTION SEVEN. Exceptions for closed meetings

Except as otherwise required by law, no recording shall be created or distributed when a public meeting is deemed to be a closed meeting. If a public meeting is partially closed and partially open, the open portion shall be recorded and distributed in accordance with this bill.

SECTION EIGHT. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect on ~~January 1, 2014~~ **April 15, 2014.**

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